

***Gelechia cuneatella* Douglas (Lep.:Gelechiidae), new to Worcestershire**

As a relative newcomer to moth trapping, 2005 was only my second year in the Garden Moth Scheme (GMS), instigated and administered by Dave Grundy, covering the Midland vice-counties of Worcestershire, Warwickshire, Staffordshire, Shropshire and Herefordshire. Although the GMS is intended for the long term monitoring of our commoner species, by committing participants to regular weekly trapping it encourages many people to trap more often than they otherwise might and has produced some excellent records. During 2005, GMS night found a Purple Marbled *Eublemma ostrina* (Hb.) in the Hall Green, Birmingham (VC 37) garden of Alan Prior and Val Weston and was followed by a Portland Ribbon Wave *Idaea degeneraria* (Hb.) in the Halesowen (VC 37) garden of Gordon and Jill Sturman.

On 27 August 2005, I ran my trap for GMS and one of a handful of unidentifiable microlepidoptera was a gelechid which, following a quick photograph, was consigned to the freezer for later dissection. At this time I had attended a dissection training session, but had carried out few of my own and was experiencing only a 50% success rate in producing reasonable genitalia preparations. Fortunately, by the time I selected the Gelechid for dissection it was almost the last of about 200 specimens I had retained and dissected during the year and so I made a reasonable job of it!

Looking through the genitalia diagrams in *Moths of Great Britain and Ireland* (Harley Books) it seemed clear it was a *Gelechia* sp. and the best match was *G. cuneatella*, with the distinctive serrated uncus. However, with a wingspan I estimated to be approximately 10mm the moth was very small for this species and although worn did not look much like the illustration in the book. *Gelechia cuneatella* also seemed to be incredibly rare, though perhaps under recorded is nearer the truth? Seeking help, I posted a photograph of the moth and genitalia plate on the ukmicromoths web site and sent the moth and slide to the Worcestershire County Recorder, Dr Tony Simpson (I later learnt that Tony was the author of the *Gelechia* section in the book). I was contacted by John Langmaid, Jon Clifton and later by Tony Simpson who were all of the opinion that the moth probably was *G. cuneatella*, but were concerned by the size. It was suggested I email the photographs to Dr Klaus Sattler at the Natural History Museum for his opinion. I very soon received a reply confirming the identification and stating *The moth is perhaps a little atypical but the genitalia leave no doubt. I have considered other, non-British, species but there is nothing with which cuneatella could be confused.*

A search for larvae will be carried out on Willows growing along a stream just 50 metres outside the garden during 2006. I would like to thank all those mentioned above for their help in identifying this species.— PATRICK CLEMENT, 28 Haswell Road, Halesowen, West Midlands B63 1DA (e-mail: patrick.clement1@btinternet.com).